

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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The Dying Thief Good News!

By Evangelist John R. Rice

(Preached in Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Racine, Wisc., Sunday night, June 15, 1941. Stenographically reported).

Now turn to Luke, chapter twenty-three. I am going to preach tonight on the dying thief, and I will read verses thirty-nine to forty-three.

"39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

"40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

"41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man (Jesus) hath done nothing amiss.

"42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

"43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

"44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth. . . .

and then the rest of the story and Jesus is gone, and the dying thief is gone, too, but gone with Him to Paradise.

Every detail of the crucifixion is etched with such surpassing clearness on our minds. Of all these people who had any part in the affairs, who took part on that memorable day, of all the people who watched Jesus die, there was only one converted there. In the throng of hundreds of thousands, perhaps a half million people that packed Jerusalem at that passover time, as far as we know this was the only man in the crowd who was saved, there saved while Jesus died!

Now there are some things I think we should learn from this. There are some happy incidents.

The Most Wicked People Are Subjects for the Gospel

One thing is, the wickedest sinners are gospel subjects. We have an idea these days that the gospel is for nice people. We have an idea it is for the little children in our Sunday school only. The average church has an idea that we want to get our own immediate family, of course, but that we can't expect to win Catholics and Jews, or anybody else who has some dif-

ferent denominational background. People think we surely can't expect to win drunkards any more, or dope fiends, or anybody who runs a tavern, or infidels or atheists and agnostics. The truth of the matter is, we have more or less narrowed down the gospel to the nice little crowd who are especially friendly to us and our crowd. But that is not the Bible way. This dying sinner proves the wickedest sinner in the world today is a proper subject of the gospel.

What kind of a gospel? The same gospel is good for every poor dying sinner that walks on this earth. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we got an idea that the whole world needs the gospel and that we ought to take it to the vilest and wickedest? We have an idea assimilated as the prayers, "Lord, bless me and my wife, my son, John, and his wife; us four, and no more." We have an idea Jesus Christ is weak and the gospel is about worn out and God can't reach tough people any more, but that is not true.



I say the wickedest sinners are gospel subjects. That is the kind that heard Jesus. When Jesus preached, the Scripture says: "Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" (Luke 15:1, 2). I wish this could be said of me, that the wickedest sinners come to hear me preach.

Sometimes I would surely like to peel the hide off you self-satisfied church members. You need somebody who is not afraid of you, and I am not. You need somebody who knows what is wrong with you, a doctor to diagnose your case; you need somebody to wade in on you. Bless God, you can get sinners to hear the honest kind of preaching that deals with sin like it is sin and tells them that God hates it and that they will have to meet God on the sin question.

I look back to a crisis that came in my ministry in the days when I was a young man. I had had many people say to me, "You ought to be a children's worker you have so many children saved," or "why don't you spend your life working with young people?" I felt God had called me to preach to everybody. I had a good many people saved, particularly young people. But there came a crisis in my life and people said to me, "You will lose every friend you have in the world if you don't tone down about criticizing modernism and unbelief. You will lose friends and invitations for meetings." But I said, "Oh, God, I want to have the power of God upon me and be true to You, if that makes me a Holy Roller, even if it makes me lose every friend in the world." And I went straight on in the way God plainly showed me. I lost the friends of a lifetime over night. My old college friends, when I was president of the University Christian Association of Baylor University used to call on me for Baccalaureate and Commencement addresses, and I had many calls for revivals even when I was just a boy preacher. But that whole crowd quit me over night, and from then on, I didn't get invitations for revivals. But I went out and set up a big tent, just the Lord and I and drunkards and harlots and tough nuts and the commonest people — nobody else there cared whether we had a revival. But you know, something happened to my ministry. Before that I had had young people saved. But the strangest thing happened; now I had more drunkards and harlots and convicts and murderers and infidels saved! Blessed be God, I found out I didn't have to have anybody else in the world if I had Jesus Christ and went after sinners.

Listen to me, I say the vilest sinners that ever walked the earth — that is the kind that Jesus preached to. Why shouldn't we preach to them? Give me that crowd, and you can have the Pharisees, the cultured, "nice" crowd, I will take the "down and outs" gladly and preach the gospel to them. They

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Do it Today!

(Sermon preached on Old Fashioned Revival Hour Broadcast Sunday night, January 10, 1943. Mechanically recorded for The Sword of The Lord).

By Evangelist Charles E. Fuller

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Let us pray:

Again, Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the privilege of coming to Thy Word which is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We thank Thee for this gracious revelation of Thy heart, how that Thou has sent forth this good news and put it on a written page that we might read, that men everywhere might be saved. We are not ashamed of this gospel, which is Thy power unto salvation. And we pray that needy hearts everywhere, hearts under condemnation, under the load of sin; many beside themselves, not knowing which way to turn, without hope and without Christ, without God, dead in trespasses and sin and disobedient, and deserving of wrath to come — that they may hear the good news, the gospel of Thy great love toward dying men and women, and be saved. For we ask it in Christ's name, Amen.

In verses 16 and 17 of Romans chapter 1, we have the fundamental subject of the entire book of Romans; and from chapter 1:18 to the end of chapter 18 we find it is simply the unfolding of what is so concisely stated here in verses 16 and 17. So I want you to read and re-read, memorize these two verses, Romans 1:16, 17, and just hide them away in your heart.

There are eleven outstanding words found in these two verses. These eleven words occur 460 times in the entire book. Among these eleven words there are five words which I wish you would copy down and memorize. I will give them to you: "gospel," "power," "salvation," "believeth," "righteousness." Just those five words. My, how many times they occur in



this book of Romans! "Gospel," "power," "salvation," "believeth," "righteousness." "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

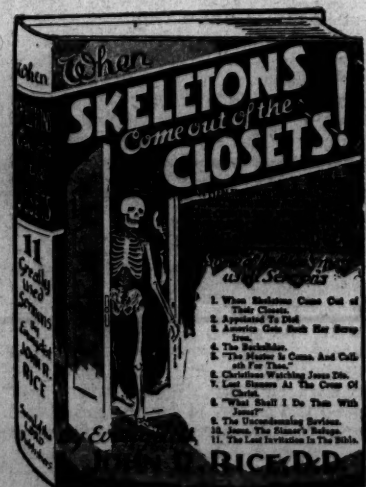
I want you to notice three things in that verse that I have just quoted to you. First of all, the effect of the gospel: salvation. Second, the extent of the gospel: worldwide, everyone. And then the exclusiveness of the gospel: that is, there is only one basis or condition or channel of salvation; faith in Christ Jesus.

What the Gospel Is. — Good News!

I will only have time on this broadcast to speak about the first, the effect of the gospel; salvation. First of all, we need to have a right understanding of the word gospel. We hear men use that word very loosely — that "it's the gospel truth." We hear of the "social gospel" and other kinds of gospel. I want to get right down to the Bible meaning of the word *gospel*. It means good news, glad tidings about God's love and grace in giving Christ Jesus, His only beloved Son, to die for and instead of sinners. And it also speaks of Christ's blessed finished work for the sin-

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Order Your Copy Today!



New Book of 11 Evangelistic Sermons By the Editor Now Ready

By Miss LOLA M. BRADSHAW, office manager, Sword of The Lord

Just suppose —

Suppose you could attend a revival campaign for eleven nights and hear Evangelist John R. Rice in these eleven nights give the choicest sermons, the ones usually used in revival campaigns, the ones proven effective in reviving saints and saving sinners. You would sit, each night, for about an hour, as thousands of other have, hearing these same sermons, as I have heard them many times.

Suppose you could hear the sermon given so often to great crowds on Sunday nights, "When Skeletons Come Out of Their Closets." In advertising the sermon in revival campaigns, the additional subtitle is often given, — "When the Ghosts of Past Sins Walk, When God's Record Books Are Opened and Sinners Receive Their Wages at the LAST JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED DEAD!" You would see clearly when and where will be that judgment, who will be judged, and what will be the basis of the judgment. You would learn the

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5 Conversions Through Sword Of The Lord Reported in 4 Days

Young Woman in Iowa and Man in Texas Saved Through Rev. Jesse Hendley's Sermon on "God's Last Call;" Woman From Minnesota Saved Through Editor's Sermon on "Salvation According to John the Baptist;" Deaf Couple in Kansas Say They Were Saved Through Messages in "The Sword of The Lord."

This is Thursday afternoon, June 17th. In the last four days, that is, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week, we have received accounts of five people happily saved through *The Sword of The Lord*. In each case the letters come directly from those who have claimed the Saviour, personal testimonies of those saved, not hearsay evidence.

Two Saved Through Message on "God's Last Call" by Jesse Hendley

On Monday came two letters from widely separated states. Lucile Roberts from a town in Iowa, and J. F. Molter from Texas, each signed a decision blank, claiming

to trust Christ from Brother Jesse Hendley's sermon, *God's Last Call*. That decision statement said,

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I have read Brother Jesse Hendley's sermon, *God's Last Call*. I know I am a sinner. God has called me to be saved before it is too late. So today in my heart I repent of my sins, I ask God to forgive me for Jesus' sake and here and now I accept Christ as my own Saviour and Lord. I give Him my heart today and will earnestly try to serve Him the rest of my life." The two blanks were signed on the same date, June 10th, and reached us here the same day, from Iowa and Texas. Praise the Lord!

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THE DYING THIEF

(Continued from page one)

are proper subjects of the gospel. They heard Jesus preach. He was criticized for preaching to them. John Wesley preached to them. He stood on his father's tombstone in the church yard when he was locked out of his church and preached to the people that came to hear him. I tell you, brother, you had better never forget it, that the gospel is good for drunkards and murderers and harlots and convicts and infidels, fallen people who are down in the mud and mire and who have been forgotten and forsaken by others.

All Are Sinners Alike

That isn't all, I would like for you to notice that. That is what the gospel is for. Oh, we nice, high and mighty people, we think we are "the cat's eyebrows." We think we are "just what the doctor ordered." I tell you, we need to come back and preach again there is not a particle of difference between the dying thief and the high priest, between us and outrageous sinners. God says, "there is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:22, 23). And the 'up-and-outs' are the same kind of sinners, just as black in heart and going to the same Hell as any drunkard or poor fallen woman. We need to know that a sinner is a sinner, and it takes all the blood of Jesus Christ to keep any sinner out of Hell. There is not a particle of difference. If there is a girl here who has lost her virtue, if there is a man who has human blood on his hands, a man whose name is in disgrace and ruin and if others have shunned you and turned their backs on you, I want you to know the Lord Jesus Christ has a saving gospel of love for you, and everybody else in the world is the same kind of a sinner inside that you are. Yes, sir!

Every Church Should Be a Rescue Mission

And another thing, you know we do these days, it is a strange thing, in every city men must organize rescue mission because the churches are too hoity-toity, and have gotten too far away from the Bible, and we get city missions to do what God intended every church to do all the time! There oughtn't never to be a church in the world where you couldn't get drunkards and harlots in to hear the gospel, where men couldn't come in overalls and hear the gospel. There oughtn't to be a church in the world where a woman couldn't come in her house dress and with cotton stockings. That is the normal business, that is the work of the church to get sinners. This business of picking out nice, respectable sinners and having a gospel for them and let the poor drunkard and fallen woman go to Hell unless the rescue missions or the Salvation Army gets them is wicked, hellish, un-Christ-like, horribly sinful! The normal thing is that the gospel is for sinners. That is the reason we dare not get too high and mighty. There are too many stuck-up ways in the churches. That is the reason I think churches should be down on the street level, with the doors open wide where people are welcome who are not too well dressed and where any poor drunkard or bum with booze on his breath would feel perfectly free to stumble in the doors and find a seat and hear the gospel and come to Jesus.

We have rescue homes for fallen girls, and I am glad we have them. But every church in the world ought to be exactly that. Sure they ought. Yes sir! You know

my preaching gets on people's toes, and they sometimes say, "Well, if you were a pastor..." I am really very kind to you strangers. You ought to have heard me when I was a pastor. Somebody says, "Well, any evangelist can get by with that." You would be surprised what I get away with anywhere I preach.

I remember when I was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Shamrock, Texas, there was a woman who came to the services and got converted. Her reputation was pretty bad, and from what she told me, I guess it was deserved. But the Lord called her and saved her. And when she was saved I said, "We would like to have you in our women's Sunday school class. We have a fine class for women, and Mrs. Blank is the teacher. All these women will be so glad to have you. And on Monday afternoon the W. M. U. meets, and they would be so pleased to have you come. You must come and join in with other Christian women. They would enjoy having you." She said, "I don't think they want a woman like me." "But you have been saved," I said, "and you have Jesus in your heart, and I baptized you. You must come right on in. They want you." And I thought they did. She said, "I am afraid they feel like I wasn't—" "Oh, yes, you come," I said again. And I went to the teacher of that women's Bible class who was also president of the W. M. U. and I said to her, "This good lady has been saved, and I have invited her to come to the women's class. You be sure to see her and make her feel at home. You must see that she comes to the Sunday school class Sunday mornings and to the missionary meeting on Monday afternoons."

And this president of the Women's Missionary Union and teacher of the women's Bible class said to me, "That woman has a rather bad reputation. Really, I think it would not be good for our church or for my Sunday school class or for our Missionary society if we had women like that coming to it. I don't think we had better invite her."

Do you know what I said? Probably a nice preacher wouldn't do this way. But I don't claim to be a nice preacher. I am just an honest man who means business for God, and I said, I am going to see that that woman comes and you will meet her and be nice to her! And if a woman in this church shuns her or pulls her skirts away, and if I find out a single woman won't sit by her doesn't make her feel at home, so help me God, if I find a single woman isn't nice to her, I will call her name in public and brand her as the dirty hypocrite she is, and she will never stick her face in this church any more for shame." I wasn't joking, you can put that down. If a place isn't fit for any sinner who trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation, — I don't care if it is a Woman's class or a Men's class or if anywhere else somebody comes to Jesus Christ — if the place isn't fit for them, it isn't fit for me. I wouldn't spit on that kind of a Christian! Let me tell you brother, the gospel is for sinners. It sure is. It is for sinners. All of these hoity-toity nice Christians, too nice to go to a mission, too nice to put an arm around some poor fallen woman who is no dirtier than you are, no worse than you are, your heart is as black as hers and you would go to the same Hell as she would but for the mercy of Jesus Christ.

I tell you, the gospel is for sinners. Oh, boy, I could shout about that! I can say Hallelujah for that! That is peace for my old soul. The gospel is good for sinners. That is the normal thing. Every church ought to be a rescue mission. The salvation army hasn't any gospel better than I have for drunkards, harlots, infidels, hard sinners, jail birds. (Voice call, "Amen.") That is right. These walls didn't fall down when that fellow said, Amen. How long has it been since you had somebody say, Amen? That is all right. Try it again, brother. It is the most fruitful field for the gospel.

The Vildest Sinners Often Easy To Win

Here is this thief dying on the cross and nobody thought to talk to him about the gospel, did they?

No, they thought, what a wicked man, that killer, that murderer, that malefactor, that criminal hanging on the cross, dying. Since he has been hanging there, he cursed, railed at Jesus. "Get us down. We are going to die. Why don't you get us down? We are going to die directly." These thieves reviled Him and railed on Him, the Scripture said. They did, both of them. Now then, one quits and gets converted. You would think that man couldn't be reached at all. You wouldn't know it, that the man was tender. We try to win to Jesus Christ the nice, well dressed, white-collared kind, and we never touch the tough ones with the loud voices at all. Sometimes there is a mother whose girl has gone away from home and nobody to look after her. God knows that mother's heart is tender, a lot more than the nice, respectable wife or mother whose children are Christians and she has them all around her. They know the devil cannot satisfy and that sin doesn't pay.

You sometimes hear people say, "Well, we can't have a revival these days." "Why not?" "Because we've got taverns and there is so much beer drinking." Let me tell you something. Wherever sin comes there are broken hearts. Sin never did satisfy. Do you think when a fellow goes to a night club, this makes his soul happy? Can he find happiness in the show or on the dance floor? Do you think when you go on and spend money and waste time — do you think that will satisfy?

I drove into a filling station and had my gas tank filled and I said to the man, "Where do you go to church?" "I don't go to church." I said, "I am preaching at the tabernacle." He said, "I wish I had come last night." "Why?" I asked. "I got out last night and got drunk and was out all night. I spent a whole week's wages. My head is splitting and I feel like I played the fool. I spent all my wages, every penny that I had earned for a whole week. God have pity on a fool like I am," He said, "I wish I had gone to church." Sin never did satisfy anybody. Where sin had a chance, where a fellow has tried the devil's way, he knows the Lord's way is good.

Somebody says, "It is so hard to live for the Lord." Do you think so? Do you want to find out what is hard? Serve the devil a while and take His wages — that is the hard way. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:30).

One reason for the sinner's repentance was his conscience. Here is a man dying. All the time there is pain in his heart, his conscience hammers, "You know you are a sinner. You are a sinner. Listen to Jesus, how kindly He speaks." All the time in his heart his conscience is smiting him and convicting him. Conscience grows acute in the fear of death. Everybody must face it. The man who goes on in sin, and on in sin and on in sin has to face it. When he goes on in sin he has to face the results and conscience knows it. I like to preach to a man who has been condemned to years in the penitentiary. He sits up and takes notice. I like to go to the hospitals when the doctor says the disease is incurable. I like to preach to a fellow when his wife says, "I am going home to mother." I like to preach then. He will listen to me. I like to go to a man when his boss says, "You are done. I have given you your last chance. You went off on a spree, were drunk on the job, for the last time. Here is your time." When he has lost his job and goes home and tells his family, I like to preach to him the gospel! When comes the biting remorse of conscience, men need the gospel!

Some of the Greatest Saints Were Once the Vildest Sinners

Now another thing. Let me tell you there is more than that. The stars in the crown of Jesus Christ when we get to Heaven, will be the sinners saved. I can hardly put up with preaching in these dry-as-dust churches, nice, saved, satisfied, petrified churches. I am glad to be out in the tent. (was in a big tent campaign at the time) Here we can drag in drunkards and harlots and I feel more like preaching to them. The brightest stars that will be in the crown of Jesus Christ will be old hardened sinners saved. Augustine, the profligate; Jerre McAuley, the thieving river-rat, John Bunyan, the drunken tinker,

George Muller, the dissolute wastrel, Mel Trotter, the drunken barber, Anthony Zeoli, the pick-pocket, and many, many more — go over the list — oh, how bright are they in the annals of martyrs and saints and soul-winning in church history. One day when they see the Saviour, how bright they will shine!

Mrs. Rice, do you remember Lonnie Jones at Sherman? He was an atheist, a dope-head, and he couldn't hold any job; he couldn't earn an honest dollar. Everybody joked poor Lonnie Jones. One night he sat out on a stone wall back in the open air revival and heard the gospel. He had his hopes raised and he came the next day to see me and asked me if there was a chance for a drunkard, a criminal, a narcotic peddler — "is there any chance," and I told him yes. I went through the gospel of John and marked every word where it said believe. I marked every one and told him God saved poor sinners. He went down the creek that day with his buddy and spent the day reading the gospel according to John. Two or three days after that he drove up to where I was staying and said, "Have you got a few minutes?" He said, "Can you go with me in my car and talk to my mother?" As I got in the car old Lonnie cried. "I have made up my mind there is no use waiting about it. I am settled in my heart if the Saviour will take me, I want to settle it in the presence of my dear old mother who has wept her heart out and her hair has turned white weeping over me and praying for me." When we got there his mother said, "What is it, Lonnie?" Lonnie said, "You have shed your last tears over me. I am going to give myself to Jesus." We got on our knees and prayed. I prayed, old Lonnie prayed and said, "Yes, Lord Jesus, I will trust you." His mother praised the Lord, clapped her hands, cried hallelujah, and tears ran down her face. Then we sang, his mother and I, "Oh how I love Jesus." Lonnie cried and said, "I can't sing, but I love Him, too."

Brother, let me tell you, there is plenty of room. Go get the halt, the lame, the blind, and people who weren't invited the first time and bring them in. I say, the dying thief proves that wicked sinners have tender hearts many times and you can get them saved if you mean business.

I look back and remember some people saved who were remarkable instances. For instance, Miss Fairy Sheppard is here from Waxahachie. Miss Fairy, you remember Mr. Eubanks. You remember the way I laid down on the liquor crowd and preached on "Whiskey Prescribing Doctors, Malt-Selling Grocers, and Bootlegging Skunks." That was back in the days of Prohibition. I called the doctors' names in that town who wrote prescriptions for whiskey. That is the way I announced the subject. I preached on the double curse of booze and the curse that was on the sellers and drinkers. I preached about an hour and fifteen minutes as hard as I could go and believe me, there was surely a stir in that town! Oh, how we were having people saved! We were in a great big old lively stable. I preached and I cracked down hard on sin. Soon after that a man sent for me, and said, "I want to see you." "Who is it?" "His name is Eubanks," they told me. He has just spent five years in the state penitentiary for bootlegging and has been indicted again for selling blackberry wine to the Trinity University students. He is waiting for his trial to come up on that and has sent for you." Somebody said, "I wouldn't go out there. No telling what he is up to." I said, "Sure I will go." I went out to his house and they received me into his home. He had a fine grown son, an upstanding, fine, nice fellow. He led me in to meet his dad. Do you know what that man told me? He wasn't running me down for preaching against sin. He said, "It is true I have been guilty of bootlegging. The thing that is heart breaking is that I loaned the Sheriff my automobile to make the race, I put up money to help him win. He won the place as sheriff and now he has double crossed me and sent me to the state penitentiary and he gave me five years of Hell!"

"Well," I said, "I am sorry if your friend betrayed you, but I tell you this, you are not going to get me to take sides against a

law enforcing officer who has sent a bootlegger to the penitentiary."

He said, "I wouldn't ask you out if I didn't respect you for it. That is what I was going to tell you. I am indicted again for bootlegging. The doctors tell me I have a weak heart and I can't get out of my chair very much. They tell me I am not long for this world. Now I have to go back to the state penitentiary and die in the pen and I am not ready to meet God. I hold resentment against that sheriff and I asked you to come out and pray for me."

I said, "Mr. Eubanks, there is just one thing to do. God will forgive you, an old sinner, if you will forgive the sheriff and everybody else. And trust Jesus Christ to save you."

His son, a fine grown son, said, "Brother Rice is right. You ought to do it."

After awhile his wife came in and said, "That is the reason I left you together. I hoped you would be saved."

Finally we talked and prayed and as he sat in his chair and sobbed, he said, "I will do it!"

I went away. Later some young people went out to see him to sing and play in this sick man's home. He sent word he wanted to be baptized. It was only about six months until he died and went on to glory. Oh, I tell you, I am surely glad I went out to see that old bootlegger Eubanks who had a tender heart. In the background of sin and ruin and shame there is many a tender heart.

I was in Chicago Gospel Tabernacle in 1932. I was going to preach one night on liquor and bootlegging. I was announcing it ahead of time. A Jewish girl, heard the announcement. She was one of seven recognized women rum-runners in America known by the police. She would go to Detroit and drive over into Canada and bring her car loaded with booze, back to the United States. Certain officers were paid off. She didn't hear me preach that sermon, but she heard me announce it and tell what I would preach to the dirty liquor crowd. That night she was there she held her hand for prayer. She went out the door with her heart racing. She said, talking to herself, "Bootlegging skunk — that's all you are, a dirty, lousy, bootlegging skunk." This Jewish girl told me later, all the way to Detroit she thought, "That is all you are, a dirty, lousy bootlegging skunk. You haven't anybody's respect and nobody cares what happens to you." She came back, went to the bootlegging headquarters and turned a carload over to them. She said, "I'm through," and with a broken heart she came to the tabernacle that night and waited until after the service. She didn't come at the invitation. When it was over she came and talked to me. I knelt down on the platform. She came up and stood and talked to me. I pled and tried to get this girl to accept the Saviour. After a little bit a woman came to help. God bless that woman, how I thanked God for her many times! She came up and said, "Honey, are you having a hard time? You don't believe God will help a sinner like you? Let me tell you what He did for me." She didn't tell all He had done but she said, "I was the Madam that ran a house down at such a number on Halsted Street (she gave the number of the house of ill fame) and I was manager of that thing, enticed girls and led them in sin." She told this girl how she didn't know anything about the Bible nor God, how after awhile sin had brought wreck and ruin in her life. Then she said, "I turned to Jesus. He forgave me and these years I have had happiness and joy in the Lord." That woman did what I couldn't do, won that Jewish girl to Christ.

God loves poor old wicked sinners, Hell-bound, Hell-deserving sinners. If you are in that crowd, well and good. If you think you are not in that crowd, you are just fooling yourself, that is all. God has mercy on sinners and I am glad the gospel is for sinners. Some are nice, respectable, pious sinners; others are outrageous and openly condemned. But in the heart where God sees both, they are the same kind of sinners.

The dying thief rejoiced to see That fountain in his day; And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins away.

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THE DYING THIEF

(Continued from page two)

Great Doctrines Proven By Salvation of the Dying Thief

Well, let's see the next thing to which I call your attention. There are certain doctrinal teachings made wonderfully clear. You notice before Jesus saved the dying thief the latter said, "Lord, remember me," Jesus said, "Today, right today, you will be with me in paradise." I want you to notice three doctrines.

First of all, there is no soul-sleeping. Some people have an idea that you go to sleep and that is the end of it until the resurrection. No, Jesus said, "This very day you and I are going right to my Father to Paradise." When the soul of that poor dying thief left that poor, aching body strung up naked on that cross, that soul entered into the joy of the Lord! The Lord Jesus was right there to stand up for him in the presence of God. There was no soul-sleeping. That is the reason the Scripture says in the 16th chapter of Luke about Lazarus, "the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom." There was no soul-sleeping. No sir! It is Heaven or Hell instantly when you die.

Here is another thing. The doctrine of purgatory is a lie of the devil. There is no purgatory here. If ever a guy needed to go to purgatory to fry the devilment out of him, this thief is the guy. If ever there was a guy for whom all the kinfolks needed to bring in money and pay him out of purgatory, this was the one. But there is nothing like that here. There is not any purgatory. Let me tell you, When God saves, He saves all over. He doesn't wait until after awhile the fires of torment purge out some of the devilment. This dying thief never lifted a finger for God, never gave a penny for God as far as we know. He never sang a song, he never gave a testimony nor did a day's work in his life as far as we know. But that very day he went straight to Heaven. You say, "He didn't deserve that." No, no! Sure, he didn't. This has to be all of grace. That is the way for sinners to get to Heaven. And there is no purgatory.

Notice another thing. This man went to Heaven without being baptized. I like to baptize people. When I used to start new churches, I built baptistries the first thing. Out on the courthouse lawn in Sherman, Texas, we built a big baptistry and we filled it up with the fire hose and set up dressing tents on either side. After a few nights we baptized twenty-eight and we went on, then baptized many more before the campaign was done.

Down in Waxahachie, Texas, we built a baptistry and filled it up with wonderful warm Waxahachie well water and baptized the converts in Bible fashion. I am for baptizing but here is a man who has gone to Heaven without being baptized! I am glad he did. Baptism is a duty of saved people but it cannot change a bad heart. Let me tell you right now, dipping doesn't make you a Christian. This dying thief said, "Lord Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom." Jesus said, "Sure. I won't wait until the kingdom, I will do it right now. Today you will go with me to paradise." He went even without being baptized. It doesn't take baptism, it takes blood. Brother, I don't care whether it is a spoonful or a tankful of water, it takes more than that to save a soul. It takes the blood of Jesus Christ His Son to cleanse us from sin. This dying thief got forgiveness, though he never saw a baptizing. He didn't join a church, yet he went to Heaven.

Saved Without Works

I want you to notice another thing. He didn't do a single thing. Brother, salvation isn't a question of your doing, it is something Jesus does. Jesus did it. It was all done that day and Jesus took him home to Heaven. He never gave a cent. He hadn't any. And even his clothes were all stripped off. He never took a step for the Lord — his feet were nailed to the cross. He didn't lift a hand — they were nailed tight there. Wonderful Saviour who saves a fellow like me who ought to be in Hell. Bless God for a Saviour who saves sinners

that ought to be in Hell, and justifies the ungodly, who saves sinners and takes them to Heaven. Isn't that good news? Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

Easy to Get Saved

All right now, another word, and I will close if I can — I will try to. Another word is this — How easy it is to get saved. One time in a service I went through the book of John and showed how the Lord said, "believe," "believe," "believe." "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on his name," in John 1:12. And "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" in John 3:16. And the next one is John 3:18: "He that believeth in Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." And John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." And I went through the book of John, "believe," "believe," "believe," preaching on how to be saved. A preacher said to me later: "Listen now, Brother John, you make this too easy." "No, bless God," I said, "I don't make it too easy — Jesus died to make it easy." Jesus made it easy that the dying thief there who ought to have been in Hell, and was going to be there in a few minutes if he didn't get this settled, was saved! "Remember me," He said, and Jesus said, "Sure. Come on and go to Heaven with me today."

Some people have an idea that they have to beg God into saving sinners. "Oh Lord, please save me," they think sinners say, and God says, "No, go on to Hell." "Lord, please save me," and if they keep on pleading after awhile they will touch the hard heart of God, and beg God into saving sinners! What a slander on a great and holy God! The only reason anybody is lost today is because he wouldn't let Jesus come in. He said, "Son, give me thine heart." He said, "I have called and you have refused. I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded." That is what the Bible said. You remember the publican went up into the temple to pray and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and he went down to his house already justified. A woman came behind Jesus weeping, and her tears fell on His dusty feet, and she took her long hair and wiped His feet where the tears washed them off. And Jesus turned and said, "Thy faith hath saved thee." Isn't that easy? We don't know that she said a word even, but her sins were all forgiven, and it is all settled. Her faith saved her. Oh, how easy it is to be saved. You know, the vilest heart that trusts in Jesus Christ is instantly saved!

I wouldn't wait, I would do it tonight. Anybody can be saved, and can be saved this moment, right now. For some things you may need to wait, but for salvation, nobody has to wait. It is all paid for, it is all free. You take freely what God gives you. You don't need to promise God how good you are going to be, but just believe what He promised you, and take it. My mother died before I was six years old. She used to sing,

"I'm glad salvation's free.
I'm glad salvation's free.
Salvation's free, for you and me.
I'm glad salvation's free."

Bless God, it is all paid for, and it is free. If there is anybody here who wants salvation, brother, take it! It is all paid for. It is all free!

Down in the same Waxahachie mentioned awhile ago, a bunch of men said to me, "We have gone down here to Miller's filling station and bought you some gasoline. We left money to pay for fifty gallons. You are running your car so much, and you have no set salary, and you don't take any offerings for yourself. So go down there and fill up your car when you want to." In a few days they asked me if I had been down to get gasoline. I hummed and hawed, and said I

had not been down. "You go on down there and get your car filled up, whenever you want to," they said. "We have paid for more gasoline, and there is now eighty-five gallons paid for you." I used my car a lot, and was pretty poor, but one day, timidly, I drove in and said, "Give me five gallons of gas, please." (If I had been sure about it, I would have said, "Fill her up.") The attendant said, "What about the oil?" "No, I guess the oil is all right." He put in five gallons of gas and wiped the windshield and the lights, and I asked, "How much is it?" and reached down in my pocket, but he said, "Never mind, Brother Rice. It is all paid." That is what I thought, but I wasn't sure. "Anything else?" If I had known for sure that it was all paid, I would have gotten ten gallons. The next time I came back in and said, "Fill it up. I believe you had better drain the oil and put in new oil," I said, "Is it all paid for?" "Yes, Brother Rice, it is all paid for." I said, "Well, when can I have this car washed?" "Bring it back this afternoon and get it washed," he said. And I drove off, and the next time I was down in Waxahachie, during that meeting I would drive in Miller's filling station for all the gas and oil I needed. Somebody else paid for it.

Bless God, I was a poor old vile sinner, and God had salvation free, so I came to Him and said, "Fill me up then. It is free, I will take it then." And God gave me a home in Heaven and peace in my heart. Bless God, salvation is free. All you will have to do to be saved is to put your trust in Jesus Christ tonight and you have it. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isa. 1:18).

This isn't a salvation for nice people — it is for sinners who can't pay a thing. Some people have an idea they can come up to God and knock on the front door and when God comes to the door, say: "You and I are about equal . . ." You like to come that way. But the only way anybody can come to God is to come to the back door like a poor, sick bum comes in his rags and says, "Could you give a poor fellow a bite to eat, I haven't had anything since day before yesterday." When you come to God you have to come as a tramp, taking what He gives so freely out of His abundant mercy. God isn't selling anything, He is giving salvation and a home in Heaven free to old dirty tramps like you and me. Praise the Lord!

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day.
And there may I, though vile as he
Wash all my sins away.

If you are tired of the load of
your sin, — Are you tired of it?
Let Jesus come into your heart.
If you desire a new life to begin,
Let Jesus come into your heart.

Just now, your doubting give o'er,
Just Now, reject Him no more,
Just now, throw open the door,
Let Jesus come into your heart.

Are you a sinner? Can you say,
"I am a poor sinner. I want to get
right with God if He has such
sweet, free mercy?" Then say yes
to God today. Ask God for mercy
today. Then write me something
like this and I will gladly write
you a letter of encouragement and
good counsel.

My Decision for Christ

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
The Sword of the Lord
145 N. Hale St. Wheaton, Ill.

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read your sermon on "The Dying Thief." I confess I am a poor lost sinner who needs forgiveness and salvation. I believe Jesus Christ died for me and loves me. Here and now I repent of my sins, I turn to Christ, and this day I trust Him as my own personal Saviour. I believe He does forgive me now. I will confess Him openly and try to live for Him.

Signed.....
Address.....
Date.....

GOOD NEWS!

(Continued from page one)

ner, putting away sin on Calvary's cross. That's the good news! Listen, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners — you are going to hear much about sin, and sinners. All have sinned, and you are a sinner, friend of mine listening in — "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:8). And Paul was very careful to tell men everywhere that he delivered that gospel that he received by revelation. Speaking to the Corinthian church he said, "I declare unto you the gospel . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:1, 3, 4).

The Only Good News for Sinners

Now listen carefully. There is no other good news for a sinner who is lost, undone, without hope, without Christ, and Hell-bound. How perfectly ridiculous and utterly silly it is for anyone, therefore, to tell sinners that there might be other ways of salvation; that a man can, for example, by his own puny efforts pull himself up by

Dr. Robert G. Lee Reviews 'Prayer — Asking and Receiving'

Dr. Robert G. Lee is the famous pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. We believe it is the largest Baptist church east of the Mississippi River, with the largest Sunday School. He is the author of a number of fine books, one of America's great preachers. He has given us sermons for the *Sword of the Lord*, and promises others in the future.

Here is Dr. Lee's review on the editor's book on Prayer:

"I have read many books on prayer. And Dr. Rice's book on prayer is among the best. Abundant with Bible quotations and references, it lays warm and sympathetic hands on practical life. Remarkably interesting, it gives the spirit of the author's earnestness. It gives unshakable assurance that God hears and answers prayer. It strengthens one's faith in the power of prayer. It makes one want to pray oftener and with more persistence. It brings joy in setting forth specific answers to prayer. It gently rebukes men for failure to pray. For me there is not a dull line in the book. Not once does he strike any jarring notes. Not once does he sound a trumpet of uncertain tone. This book, written as friend talks face to face with friend, is one I shall read again — a book I hope will find a place in every church library, every home library, every preacher's library, and among every teacher's stock of books."

This large volume, 328 pages, 21 chapters, bound in royal blue cloth, stamped in gold, is having a great reception. Over 5,000 copies have gone out since November 13. It is full of Bible teachings, illustrated by personal experiences. It is understandable, heart-moving, life-changing. We hope you will order your copy today. The price is only \$1.25 postpaid. Write

THE SWORD OF THE LORD
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HERBERT LOCKYER'S new

unpublished book-length study, "The River of the Race," will be published in its entirety this year.

Also articles by Norman Harrison, John Rice, Vance Hagner, Donald Barnhouse and others in The ANSWER, America's new outstanding Christian weekly. Only \$1.00. Subscribe now.

Box 2 Jacksonville, Florida

his own boot-straps or by works of righteousness be saved; that there is a spark of divinity in man, and all he has to do is to fan that spark and some day that spark will burst into a living, God-like flame. Perish the thought! God says man is dead, dead in trespasses and sin, spiritually separated from God, eternally lost without Christ, without hope, without God — dead in trespasses and sin!

Paul was not ashamed of this good news that God sent His only begotten Son to die in the sinner's place. He went everywhere proclaiming the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And he suffered the loss of all things for that marvelous gospel. Why, Paul was a man of one message, that Christ died for our sins and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, ever living to make intercession for us.

Judge A Preacher By His Message

I want to say this to you, that sometimes men are carried away with a preacher's brilliancy, or his ability, his oratory. Sometimes you listen to a speaker and you hear people say, "My, isn't he smart? Isn't he brilliant? Isn't he educated? Isn't he wonderful?" Well, what kind of a gospel is he preaching? Did it ever occur to you that you are not to follow a man's ability or his oratory? But search down and see what kind of message he is preaching. And so when Paul came to the Corinthian church he said, "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (I Corinthians 2:1-4). Oh, listen! Just because a fellow has a handle a foot long after his name is no criterion that he knows the gospel; but if he does know the gospel, he's that much sharper an instrument in God's hand.

Now, listen. It's not our preaching — it's not my preaching that any soul is saved, but it's this: the heralding, the proclaiming, the sounding-forth of God's good news, which is "the power of God unto salvation." And that's why we should send this message out, that Christ died for our sins. "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching (proclaiming) to save them that believe" (I Corinthians 1:21). Notice: "the foolishness of proclaiming." Proclaiming what? That Christ died for our sins. That's the center of our message. And God uses the weakest vessels. And I've heard vessels that could stutter and stammer and butcher the King's English, but oh, how they preached that Christ died for men, that God loves them. And God used their proclaiming, used that instrument, the proclaiming of that message to the salvation of hundreds of precious souls. Listen, it's not the preaching of foolishness. And so every preacher is a herald, a messenger of God's glad tidings; and God forbid that any preacher should add to or subtract or pervert that good news. Paul, in the first chapter of Galatians, said, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from that gospel that I delivered unto you." He goes on to tell how that if any man preach any other gospel, let him be damned! That's pretty plain speaking.

Acceptance of Gospel Results in Salvation From Past, Present and Future Sins

Now this proclaiming of God's good news is the power of God unto salvation; not to reformation! not to education; not to world betterment, but to salvation. My, what a word *salvation* is! Now the meaning of that word, *salvation*. Some people think that salvation means only to escape punishment in the day of judgment; a sort of a fire insurance policy to escape the lake of fire eternally reserved for every Hell-bound, unregenerated sinner. I'm talking plainly, right out to you, because I haven't any time to waste. You've got an eternal soul that's going to spend eternity some place, and we have the message God has given to us

(Continued on page four)

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

(Continued from page one)

difference between the first and the second resurrections, with one thousand years between. You would see why Christians cannot come to be judged in this last judgment, but will be there already gloriously saved, in glorified bodies, to bear witness against the unsaved for their sins. You would learn how the sins of the past will become known when God's record books are opened; how secret things will be brought to light; sins of the heart that no one knew will be proclaimed from the housetops. You would hear how at long last, when the judgment will be finished, every unsaved person, dragged out of Hell to face the record of his sins, would be sent, soul and body, into the lake of fire forever!

You would hear the sermon, "Appointed to Die!"

You would hear the thrilling sermon of America's war-guilt, how God is punishing wicked America for her sins, how we are reaping what we have sowed as explained in the sermon, "America Gets Back Her Scrap-Iron." Hundreds wrote for extra copies when this was printed in *The Sword of The Lord*. Dr. Glover, of the China Inland Mission, wrote saying it so clearly showed America's guilt in the Japanese-Chinese War, that he wanted copies sent to the President and every senator and congressman.

And you would hear the sermon, "The Backslider." It answers the questions about who is the backslider, why people backslide, is the backslider saved or lost and how he may get back to God. Certainly it shows that backsliding never pays! How many people have returned to their first love, have seen clearly the way back to peace and joy and victory, as they heard this sermon!

You would hear, "The Master Is Come and Callesth for Thee."

You would hear the moving sermon, "Christians Watching Jesus Die."

Another sermon on the crucifixion you would hear, "Lost Sinners at the Cross of Christ". — Pilate the Pharisees, the mob, the soldiers, the centurion, the dying thief — you would feel their heart-beats and perhaps see yourself as God sees you.

You would hear the sermon, "What Shall I Do Then With Jesus?" — Pilate's immortal question, with many Scriptures; a sermon that God has used to save hundreds of souls.

You would hear the tender message, *The Uncondemning Saviour*. How many Bible questions it answers! How clear it makes the way of salvation!

You would hear the message, "Jesus, the Sinners' Refuge," with its unforgettable illustrations.

You would hear then "The Last Invitation in the Bible," an exposition of Revelation 22:17.

SUPPOSE, I SAY, THAT YOU HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO FOR ELEVEN NIGHTS, NEARLY TWO WEEKS, TO HEAR THESE SERMONS THOUSANDS OF OTHERS HAVE HEARD IN BIG CAMPAIGNS ALL OVER AMERICA?

Well, perhaps you cannot do that.

Well, let us suppose again.

Suppose that those eleven sermons were written down carefully, prayerfully, with tears; illustrations and all. In them would be wrapped up the heart-beat, the fervor, the spiritual power of twenty-one years' evangelistic ministry in which some 15,000 souls have claimed Christ as Saviour and tens of thousands of Christians have claimed new power and blessings from God. Would you want such a book with these messages?

Suppose the book were printed in 191 extra large pages.

Suppose it were bound in lovely wine-colored purple cloth, and stamped with gold.

Suppose all these sermons (with twice as many words as in an ordinary book of sermons, since these are extra long and full) were a book with purple tinted edges, and wrapped in an attractive pictured jacket printed in purple on white.

And suppose that this large and expensive book could be had for only \$1.00 postpaid. WOULD YOU BUY IT?

The Book Is Now Ready!

We are glad to announce that these sermons are in the book, *When Skeletons Come Out of the Closets* which is now ready for mailing, at this remarkably low cost. The first copies are to be delivered to us, God willing, June 24th. We expect a flood of orders. You had better get your order in the mail at once, if possible.

The average new book, printed in war time and selling for \$1.00, has not over 128 pages, and usually the pages do not have much over half as much copy as the large pages do not have much over half as much copy as the large pages on this new book of sermons, "When Skeletons Come Out of the Closets." Paper cost is higher, printers are hard to get, the government restricts the amount the paper we may use, publishers have their difficulties. Books cost more to print. And yet we offer you about twice as much material as you would get in other new books first published in war time. Here are some reasons why.

First, we had printed 10,000 copies the very first printing. This is very unusual. The cost of setting the type, making up the pages, correction of proof, etc., would all have been absorbed, in most cases, in the first cost of 1,000 books perhaps. When the cost is spread through 10,000 copies, it is considerably less per volume. Likewise it is cheaper to buy paper for 10,000 books at once, cheaper per copy to set up the machinery for sewing and binding 10,000 copies. We had confidence that thousands would want this popular book of evangelistic sermons, so printed 10,000 at once.

Second, *The Sword of The Lord Publishers is not in business for profit*. We pay no interest on the money invested. Salaries paid the helpers are not high, and the editor and publisher himself gets not a penny of income from all the publishing enterprise. Our office is in a large, well lighted basement, with low rent.

Third, the author takes no royalty whatever from his books. Other publishers would pay ten per cent of the retail price of the book to the author as royalty, and that is little enough. Dr. Rice however, lives by the free will offerings of God's people in revival campaigns, and takes not a penny from any of his writings.

Thus we are able to offer this remarkable book for only \$1.00.

Send your \$1.00 today and receive a copy at once.

Or better yet, why not start a real revival in your church? To help you, we will be glad to send you six copies of the book for only \$5.00. Put one in the Sunday school library. Give one to the pastor. Give one to the program committee of the young people's meetings and let them divide up a sermon and have several different people give part of that sermon, each in his own words, in a young people's meeting. Have the book reviewed in a program of the women's society. Lend copies to unsaved people to read. Send one to a soldier boy in the army. We are anxious to get out the gospel and will be glad to cooperate.

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SWORD OF THE LORD

PUBLISHERS

145 N. Hale St., Wheaton, Ill.

John L. Bray in Mobile

Friends of our young brother, Rev. John L. Bray, who worked with us some in *The Sword of The Lord* office, will be interested to know that he has accepted the pastorate of a congregation in the suburbs of Mobile, Alabama. He reports a happy beginning of his work there, tells us that he has heard from a number of people saved through his tracts.

Brother Bray was formerly editor of *THE ANSWER* magazine at Jacksonville, Florida, and has many friends to wish him well. He can be addressed at 1558 Monroe Street, Mobile, Alabama.

5 Conversions Through Sword in Four Days

(Continued from page one)

Woman Saved Through Editor's Sermon on "Salvation According To John the Baptist."

From a Minnesota town we received a letter on Wednesday, June 16th, signed by Mrs. H. C. Lindberg. Notice we do not give the address. The decision slip read:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I have read your sermon on *Salvation According to John the Baptist*. I believe what God says, that Christ died for my sins, that if I will accept Him and trust Him alone, he will forgive me and save me. I believe that when I honestly trust Him, He gives me everlasting life. Here and now, today I do trust Him, and I write to let you know. I believe He forgives my sins and saves my soul. I will try to live for Him daily."

(Signed) June 13, 1943

Mrs. H. C. Lindberg

Mrs. Lindberg wrote also a lovely letter in which she said,

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I read *The Sword of The Lord* every week and I think it is the best little paper I ever read. My, I wouldn't be without it for any price. It just seems to fit in every week with my trials of life, and gives me so much comfort. I signed my decision for Christ and I am really going to trust Him for my salvation. Praise the Lord.

Your sister in Christ,"

(Signed) Mrs. H. C. Lindberg

Two Deaf People, Unable to Hear Preaching, Saved Through the Sword

Today came a lovely letter from two friends in Kansas who have been reading *The Sword of The Lord* and now send their renewal subscription and tell how they were saved through this paper. They could not hear preaching in the churches, could not hear the gospel over the radio, but could read and through *The Sword of The Lord* they say they found Christ. Their letter follows. We do not give the address.

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Am enclosing \$1.00 for your paper. Please send me old papers from February and new paper for today.

"Your papers are very good. We always read them whenever we get it from our mail box. We accept Christ Jesus. I know we are still sinners but we try to follow Christ Jesus' way. We are deaf parents of three hearing boys who are in the United States Service except the third boy. He is farming on other peoples' places. In town all people know we never went to church either. We haven't went to church for a long, long time, but they do not know our hearts. We accepted Christ Jesus by reading your papers. We know God has big mercy on us for we cannot hear nor understand the preacher's talking. But we can read and understand from your papers.

"Hoping your business is great with God's work. God bless you all, your family also and other people, too.

"Yours respectful brothers,"

(Signed) Mrs. Wilma Stucky

Mrs. Henry Stucky

"P. S. Forgive me for not sending you \$1.00 as soon as possible when our time is over."

Who knows in the more than 20,000 families that read *The Sword of The Lord* each week, how many there are who have no other chance of salvation! Many cannot attend any church except some modernistic church where there is never a gospel sermon, never an invitation to accept Christ! Many others attend churches where all they know of the gospel is do, do, do, work, work, work, and depend on your good works and character to get you to Heaven! So many churches do not preach that people can repent and trust Jesus Christ for salvation and receive at once everlasting life, free par-

don, and a home in Heaven! Some are in prisons and cannot get out. How sweet the gospel is to many of them! Others are in the armed services, far from home, and they tell us what a blessing *The Sword of The Lord* is to them. You remember that a boy in North Africa wrote the other day saying that he sat down and cried because of a letter from the editor. He was so glad to have some letter talking about God and spiritual things. Others are shut-ins and cannot attend services, or are deaf, like the two whose letter above tells of their salvation.

Surely, surely thousands of others would be saved through the gospel messages printed in *The Sword of The Lord* if our readers and friends would see that the paper came into the hands of multitudes of the unsaved. I doubt if there is any better mission work could do than to prayerfully, sensibly select friends who need these gospel messages and send in subscriptions for them to *The Sword of The Lord*. And if you send a subscription, do your part and tell them honestly that you are praying for their salvation, and have had sent to them these precious gospel messages in the *Sword*.

Last week through a slip on the front page of *The Sword of The Lord* we advertised *The Sword of The Lord* as "America's Foremost Weekly." We meant to say (and somewhere between dictation, the stenographer, the linotyper and the proof reader a change was made), "America's Foremost Evangelistic Weekly." *The Sword of The Lord* does not pretend to cover all the ground. For example the great *Sunday School Times*, published at 325 N. 13th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is a great Sunday school paper, and on certain matters we do not compete with that wonderful Christian paper at all.

Then of course there are great secular magazines running into millions of copies weekly. In the evangelistic field, promoting revivals, giving accounts of revivals and happy conversions, and particularly in publishing great sermons by the best soul winners on this continent, full length gospel messages, I feel that *The Sword of The Lord* is unique, stands absolutely alone. We do not know of another evangelistic weekly that reaches as many souls for Christ, or that attempts to compare with *The Sword of The Lord* in printing full length messages by America's best soul winners.

Will Pastors and Christians Help Us Get Out The Sword of The Lord?

Hundreds of preachers are regular subscribers to *The Sword of The Lord*. Many other prominent church people, useful as teachers and officers in their own churches, feel they could not do without this paper. Then will you help us to get *The Sword of The Lord* into every home in your congregation, if possible? Talk to your pastor. See if he is willing for you to give out sample copies of *The Sword of The Lord* at the church service, see if he will make an announcement about the papers being there and urge people to subscribe. Then tell us just how many papers you will want to give out as samples and we will send them absolutely free. If you like, we will also send you subscription envelopes to pass among the people. Each one may put his own \$1.00 in the envelope and put his name and address on the outside and mail it, or all can be turned into one person to send in.

If we have heard from five people in four states in the last four days who claimed they were saved through reading the sermons in *The Sword of The Lord*, don't you believe you could have a part in the salvation of many others if you would spread this blessed gospel paper? If you will give out samples, then let us hear from you. Or if you will send subscriptions for others who ought to read the paper, do it and God will bless you. Address all mail to *The Sword of The Lord Publishers*, 145 N. Hale St., Wheaton, Illinois.

GOOD NEWS!

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in His word; the only remedy for lost, sinful men, is the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation. Now salvation is more, however, than just simply a fire insurance policy. It carries with it the thought of deliverance from the past and from the power, and from the presence of sin, some day.

Now let me give you the Scripture for it. The believer the moment that he accepts Christ for his personal Saviour, is saved from the guilt and the penalty of sin. Now notice, "for the preaching of the cross" — not the cross, but the preaching of the cross — Just the fact that you happen to wear a little emblem of the cross wouldn't save you — but the preaching of the cross, — "is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Corinthians 1:18). We are saved from the penalty and the guilt of sin. And then, after we are saved, the believer is being saved from the power of sin, "for sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). Not, "work for your salvation," but work out that which God has given you; work out your salvation with fear and trembling. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

And then the believer is to be saved — future. We know, those of us who are saved, have a redeemed soul and spirit in an unredeemed body. This body of our humiliation is outwardly, daily perishing; but some day this body of our humiliation will be transformed and changed into the likeness of His glorious body. And so God tells us that we are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:5). And some day in the twinkling of an eye all who have died in Christ, will be raised from the dead, and will have new bodies, and we which are alive and remain will be changed, fashioned like unto His glorious body. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2).

The Universal Need of Salvation

Some may question the need of salvation. Why, I received a letter yesterday from a pastor in which he said that after a wonderful communion service, a very finely dressed, intelligent lady came up at the close of the service, and she said, "Pastor, do you think we are all lost outside of Christ?" I wish I had been there! I don't know what he told her, but he said, "I'm heart-broken to think that men will not receive the Word."

Listen! Do you need salvation? Some of you may say, "I pay my debts and I go to church regularly, and I'm a member of such-and-such a church, and I'm a law-abiding citizen." Well, congratulations! But God's Word says, "All have sinned," and "The soul that sinneth, it shall die," that is, be eternally separated from the life and light which is in Christ Jesus and be cast into the lake of fire which burneth forever. You may be the most educated, the most socially perfect and know all the rules of etiquette and so forth and so on, but unless you are saved, you are bound for eternal separation. Now, is that plain enough? All right. God is a holy, righteous God. He is not willing that any should perish. He hates sin, and He must punish sin. Either the sinner must die or an innocent substitute must die in his stead. Now, all have sinned. That includes you.

Christ Will Save You This Moment

But, Christ died for your sins. And the moment that you accept Him, receive Him into your heart, repent, confess your sins, turn away from your sins, you are born again, you become a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).